

The Sacramento Beat

The Senate Finance Committee voted last week to balance Governor Goodwin J. Knight's record 1955-56 budget by using \$60,000,000 of the rainy day fund.

Strong objections to the move were voiced immediately by Knight, but there was no indication the committee would change its mind. "We have been balancing the budget out of surpluses for the last nine years, so we won't be setting a precedent," said Ben Hulse (Rep-Imperial), chairman of the powerful finance group.

Size of the Senate committee version of the budget was almost 2 million dollars less than what the Governor had asked for. The end result, a spending allotment of over \$1,529,000,000, is still the highest in the state's history and the largest state budget in the nation.

The Assembly approved a budget of roughly the same size last week, but in a reversal of earlier action, voted not to use any of the 75-million-dollar rainy day fund for current expenses during the coming fiscal year. The lower house has approved upping taxes on hard liquor, a move which will furnish an estimated 14 of the 100 million needed to balance the budget. The Governor proposes a new 3-cent-per-pack levy on cigarettes and a raise in horse racing and beer levies to furnish 56 million more dollars.

Hulse says spending will match income if the Legislature uses the \$30,700,000 left over from this year, \$2,700,000 from the employment contingent fund, part of the rainy day fund, and \$15,000,000 which he expects the state to pick up as the result of improved business conditions. If his proposal is adopted, the state will have \$47,500,000 in reserve funds at the end of the next fiscal year, Hulse estimates.

Tough Fight Due
A tough fight is expected when the compromise Assembly-Senate committee begins to try to reconcile differences, for the Senate is said to be cool to the entire Administration tax program, while a majority of the Assemblymen have indicated they are not in favor of rainy day fund use for current or general budgetary expenditures. In addition, Assembly Democrats are strongly opposed to the cigarette tax and have as yet to endorse the beer tax increase.

An Administration proposal to pay for major construction and other capital outlaying during the next five years with 200 million dollars' worth of general obligation bonds is also meeting opposition. S. C. Masterson, Democratic caucus chairman, said he was firmly opposed to the idea and stated that the state should use up all reserves before it began paying interest on bonds for ordinary governmental expenditures. Except for the school program, California has never used such methods for the general financing before

and should continue to balance its budget by raising taxes, he added.

County Sales Tax
Another tax matter which will not affect state income was approved by the Assembly last week, while a similar Senate version has been set for hearing. The bills would permit, for the first time, counties to levy a sales tax. A uniform 4 per cent was set as the ceiling, a move which proponents say will result in great bookkeeping savings and end unfair competition by cities without sales taxes. Opponents of the permissive measure say it is as good as mandatory, and that the already overburdened consumer will find himself paying an additional 80 million in sales taxes if the measure becomes law.

The Assembly settled in one morning three of the most important issues before it this session when it voted out a \$5 increase in old age pensions, state support for a community mental health program and the establishment of a powerful fair employment practices commission. The previous day the same body approved the controversial "purity of elections" bill.

FEP Bill Passed
Passage of the FEP bill, by Assemblyman William Byron Rumford (Dem.-Berkeley), marked the first time such a measure has ever been approved by the lower house. Vote was 48 to 27. Rumford's proposal sets up an arbitrating commission and prohibits job discrimination on the basis of race, creed, or color. Persons found guilty of such discrimination would be subject to the right to appeal in court, fined \$500 and/or given a six-months jail sentence. The measure is expected to have route made in the Senate, where no FEP bill has ever been reported out of committee. Last ditch attempts were made to stop passage of the flat \$5 old age pension boost by offering a substitute plan on the Assembly floor, but the substitute move was overwhelmingly defeated. The substitute plan would have offered greater immediate benefits, but would have required pensioners to give the state a lien on their real property. The across-the-board increase, proposed by Assemblyman Charles H. Wilson (Dem.-Los Angeles), was approved 69 to 6.

Preventive Program
The mental health measure authorizes establishment of clinics in counties of more than 50,000 population and provides for state assistance. The program was described as preventive medicine, as well as an attempt to cut down admittance to the state's overcrowded mental institutions.

The purity of election bills, which would require strict reporting of campaign receipts, passed the Assembly with only five dissenting votes. Author of the proposal, Assemblyman William A. Munneu (Dem.-Monte-

llo), said he put forth the bill at the suggestion of Attorney General Edmund G. (Pat) Brown. "It is our belief that the people are entitled to know who is behind which candidates," Munnell told the Assembly. A similar proposal by Senator Richard Richards (Dem.-Los Angeles) has already been killed in the upper house, but the Munnell measure has been sent to the Senate Elections Committee anyway.

Vital decisions were also reached on the committee level this week.

Tidelands Issue
The bitterly-contested bill turning Long Beach tidelands monies over to the state was approved Thursday by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and sent onto the Assembly floor. On the same day, the Senate Governmental Efficiency Committee approved a bill dividing about 33 million in tidelands royalties among the counties. The proposal, opposed by the State Division of Beaches and Parks, would give the counties control of recreational programs normally handled by the state and financed by tidelands money.

"Substantial" agreement was also announced on the other half of the tidelands coin—what will happen in newly opened tidelands fields. Four bills approved by the Assembly late last week have been further amended to meet the objections of the Attorney General and the State Lands Commission. The latest amendments would allow the commission sole power to determine whether land thought to contain oil should be leased.

A new fight on an already well-fought issue—water—appeared to have been touched off with the approval in committee of a bill setting up a new department of water resources. Governor Knight and a group of Republican Senators and Assemblymen met late in the week to try to come up with a unified program. Their meeting touched off a floor caucus of Assembly Democrats and the announcement that the Democrats would fight any attempt to strip the Attorney General of his powers to represent the state in important water cases. At issue is the role which the State chief legal officer will play in the new department. Brown is the only constitutional officer now in office who is a Democrat.

Dam Sites Approved
An appropriation of \$5,000,000 to purchase the Oroville and San Luis dams and reservoir sites was approved by the Senate Water Resources committee after provision was made for turning the San Luis site over to the Federal government. The proposal, now before the Senate Finance Committee, was opposed in an earlier form by advocates of the federal Trinity project on grounds that it was another move by Feather River backers to block federal con-

Popular Young Radio Emcee To Visit Here

Jack Linkletter, popular young radio emcee and son of the famous Art Linkletter, will be at the Jim Dandy Market, Torrance Blvd. and Crenshaw, from 4 to 4:30 p.m., Friday, June 3, to tap material for his KNX show on June 12, according to L. E. "Shorty" Modeland, manager of the market.

Young Linkletter will conduct an audience participation program at the local market during his half hour visit here next Friday afternoon, Modeland said. Material taped at the market will be edited into the show 10 days later.

Five Hurt in 3-Car Crash

A Wilmington man was being held by California Highway Patrolmen after a three-car collision at Lomita Blvd. and Main St., Friday, which involved a Torrance woman.

Mrs. Hazel L. Rupe, 33, of 22494 Catskill Ave., had stopped for a stop light, when a car driven by Thomas Kiuchi, 33, of Los Angeles, collided with the rear of her car. It, in turn, had been hit by a car driven by Eugene A. LeBourveau, of Wilmington, who was booked on suspicion of felony drunk driving.

LeBourveau, Kiuchi, and three passengers in Kiuchi's car were treated at Wilmington Receiving Hospital.

structure of San Luis. In Washington, initial approval of the Trinity project was granted by the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, but no decision was made on San Luis.

Earlier in the week, 47 of the Assembly's 80 members became co-authors of a resolution calling for a special session on water between the end of the regular and budget sessions.

Other Matters
Developments in other fields during the week included:
EDUCATION—One Assembly committee approved a 100-million-dollar school bond issue, already been okayed by the Senate, and another disapproved for the second time the so-called "bookburning" bill.

NARCOTICS—Establishment of a state commission on narcotics addiction was approved in a 69-0 vote by the Assembly.
LIQUOR—Assembly and Senate bills designed to end trafficking in liquor licenses were killed in the Senate Committee on Governmental Efficiency.

PLANNING—Assembly Ways and Means approval has been granted to a bill setting up a state office of physical planning which would operate on a voluntary basis.

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